



FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL PRESS RELEASE

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New Move Over Florida Enforcement Wave Requires Motorists to Move Over & Save Lives

Tallahassee- Move Over Florida! It's the law; it's common sense; it's common courtesy and it's a lifesaver! Florida law enforcement officers have been working hard to enforce the Move Over Law in our state since it became official in 2002. The law requires drivers to ***move over*** one lane whenever an emergency vehicle on the side of the road has emergency lights activated. If moving over is not an option, the drivers must simply ***slow down*** at least 20 mph below the posted speed limit.

"Compliance with Florida's Move Over Law is critical for the safety of law enforcement officers and other emergency personnel working on our highways," said Colonel John Czernis, Director of the Florida Highway Patrol. "That's why our law includes protection for all first responders, emergency personnel and construction workers. Every one of these people are putting their lives at risk. Every one of them deserves protection under the law."

A statewide Move Over Law Task Force was formed to develop strategies to better educate the public about the law and to better enforce it. The Task Force held its first multi-agency workshop in Tallahassee. As a result, a new ***Move Over Florida!*** statewide campaign is now in effect from June 23 through June 29.

"The Department is committed to working with our partners to educate and enforce the Move Over Law," said Electra Theodorides-Bustle, Executive Director of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. "We believe it will make a difference in the life of an emergency worker. Law enforcement is already one of the most difficult and dangerous jobs a person can choose without the added worry of a motorist passing you on the roadway and creating more hazards. At the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, we are leading the way to a safer Florida, for everyone on our roadways."

The ***Move Over Florida!*** enforcement wave will involve participation from the entire law enforcement community statewide. During the week-long enforcement operation, law enforcement officers will be working together along busy highways and interstates to catch Move Over Law violators and others breaking traffic laws. Law enforcement officers will be out in force writing warnings and citations for violations so the public needs to beware!

"The stakes are just too high," said the president of the Florida Sheriff's Association and Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson. "Too many law enforcement officers can tell stories about almost getting hit by

passing cars during traffic stops. Every close call is a brush with death that never makes the evening news. Many people only pay attention when an officer gets killed. By then, it's too late."

"Our police officers are out there every day working for the public to keep them safe," said Florida Police Chiefs Association president Chief Gerald Monahan of the Port Orange Police Department. "We owe it to them to provide them a safer working environment by moving over when we see them stopped. Give them the room they need to do their jobs safely."

The upcoming high-visibility enforcement wave is one way to remind motorists about the **Move Over Law**. All anyone has to do to avoid the fine is use this common sense precaution behind the wheel: ***Move Over. Slow Down. Save Lives.***